

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Note on the Bond Bill May be Taken Saturday.

JONES ALTERS HIS PROGRAMME

To Insist on a Session Until a Vote is Reached—A Lively, and at Times Amusing, Passage at Arms—More Free Silver Speeches—Threat that the Free Silverites Will Embarrass the Tariff Bill with an Amendment—Short Session of the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—A very animated debate closed the session late this afternoon over the question of taking the vote on the pending silver bond bill. It had been expected through the day that Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, in charge of the measure, would hold the senate in session until a vote was forced. He had given notice of this purpose, and senators were prepared for it. But at 4:15 when Mr. Vilas secured the floor for a speech, he yielded for a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Jones explained that it was proposed to take a recess until to-morrow. He felt satisfied, he said, that a vote could be taken in the near future. This led to much discussion. Mr. Chandler was sarcastic at the abandonment of the plan for a vote. Mr. Stewart declared that it made no difference when a vote was taken, or whether any was taken. It was all "dress parade" and "buncombe." He added the significant statement that the pending silver amendment would be germane as an amendment to the tariff bill and that when the latter measure came up before the senate he would offer a silver amendment to test senators on their choice between tariff and silver.

After a lengthy discussion, the senate went into executive session and then took a recess until to-morrow, without any express understanding as to the time, although the talk had shown a purpose to secure a vote on Saturday.

The Proceedings.

After some routine business the senate resumed consideration of the silver bond bill and Mr. Call, (Dem., Fla.), continued his speech begun yesterday.

Mr. Mitchell, (Rep., Ore.), followed in support of the silver substitute.

Mr. Mitchell said the question presented was whether the bonded indebtedness to maintain the gold standard, or by a greater use of silver restore the metal to its primary place as money of the constitution. He pointed out that our foreign indebtedness during the past twenty-five years had greatly increased, notwithstanding that during that time there was a balance of trade in our favor in merchandise of \$1,350,000,000, besides silver exports of \$350,000,000 and gold exports of \$271,190,721. There were two remedies to be applied: First, our merchant marine must be encouraged and built up and we must become our own carriers; secondly, we must legislate to increase the value of our export commodities so as to enable us to wipe out the debt which to-day makes the people of this country virtually slaves to the money lenders of Great Britain. He thought that the only remedies which could protect the people of America from the inroads of the orient were the abandonment of the single gold standard and the establishment of a protective tariff. He was against any increase in the public debt to maintain the gold standard.

Mr. Mitchell said he was in favor of bi-metallicism, but he did not believe it could be brought out by an international agreement. He did not believe that those who were talking of an international agreement expected that such a result was possible. He was in favor of independent bi-metallicism as there was no prospect of an international agreement. He did not believe that England as long as she could control Germany and other countries would consent to an international agreement for bi-metallicism.

Mr. Perkins, (Rep., Cal.), spoke briefly in support of the silver amendment. He said that the measure had been secured in the metropolitan press of misrepresenting their constituents, for, it was asserted, California was in favor of the gold standard. Mr. Perkins, contending that the last Republican platform of California had a plank declaring for the free and unlimited coinage of silver. Resolutions were passed by the California legislature instructing the senators from that state to support the free and unlimited coinage of silver. The people of California had made up their minds on this subject and knowing this universal feeling in his state, the senator said he would cast his vote for the silver amendment, thus executing the instructions given him even through his personal views inclined to a more conservative course.

He would prefer an American policy on the silver question, first confining the product of American mines.

Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, interrupted with the question:

"Will the senator support the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, independent of England?"

"Yes, I will vote for that measure," answered Mr. Perkins, "although I do not regard it as entirely expedient at the present time. I will respond to the desires of the people and the state I have the honor in part to represent."

Mr. Perkins proceeded to urge the need of a tariff measure adequate to meet the country's expenditure and to overcome the deficit. The senator also approved the popular feature of the bond bill. He pointed out, however, that no city west of the Mississippi river could take bonds without paying the exchange between San Francisco and New York, while eastern cities could buy direct of the sub-treasuries without paying exchange.

Mr. Perkins said it was an unwarranted discrimination against the west in strange contrast with the various restrictions of gold made from the mines of California. At 4:15, when Mr. Perkins concluded, an animated discussion arose as to taking a vote on the measure. Mr. Vilas, of Wisconsin, took the floor for a speech, but stated that he preferred to go on to-morrow. It was expected that Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, in charge of the bill, would insist on proceeding, but he said he would yield for an executive session. He added:

"I am thus being satisfied from conversation with senators that there will be no difficulty in getting a vote on the bill in the very near future."

An Animated Debate.

"Has the senator abandoned his present plan?" asked Mr. Chandler.

"We had understood that he would hold on to proceeding. Will the senator have the purpose?"

Mr. Jones explained that he considered it expedient to take a recess until to-morrow and then go on without interrupting the senator.

"Has the senator expect to vote to-morrow?" asked Mr. Chandler.

"To-morrow or the next day," responded Mr. Jones.

"But will the senator from New York

(Hill) consent that a vote be taken then?" Mr. Hill smilingly suggested that "he was not just then being polled." Mr. Chandler proceeded to explain that he was ready to vote on the bill and that he would gladly assent to any new arrangement if the distinct consent of the senators could be secured. If the present plan for a vote was to be abandoned, then some definite new plan should be offered.

Mr. Jones answered with spirit that the bill had not been abandoned. He had merely adopted what he considered the most expeditious plan.

At this point Mr. Morrill (Rep., Vt.) announced that he desired to speak for about forty minutes on the bill Saturday. This necessitated a further rearrangement of plans. Mr. Jones courtously suggested that he would certainly shape his plans to afford Mr. Morrill every facility for speaking on the day desired.

"Then it appears that it is not expected that a vote will be taken to-morrow," interjected Mr. Chandler. "For surely the senator (Mr. Jones) would not want this courtesy to the senator from Vermont (Mr. Morrill) on Saturday after the voting on the bill on Saturday?"

Mr. Stewart, Nevada, said it was perfectly apparent that no vote could be taken this week; it would be better, he said, to arrange for a vote early next week.

Mr. Jones dissented from this, saying he felt satisfied a vote could be reached on Saturday.

Mr. Harris, Tennessee, urged that a recess be taken until to-morrow at 12, and then a recess until Saturday at 10 a. m., with an agreement to vote at 12 on Saturday. He said there were reasons why Mr. Jones should be relieved from the direction of this bill in order to meet an urgent personal engagement out of the city.

Mr. Chandler remarked that he did not wish to be placed in the position of hastening action on this "porcineous amendment to an important bill." He did not desire to have action unduly delayed. He suggested proceeding under the five minute rule, excepting the speech of Mr. Morrill, and voting on Saturday.

Sharp and Amusing.

This brought forward Mr. Stewart for a sharp, and at times amusing, colloquy with Mr. Chandler.

"This whole thing is dress parade," asserted Mr. Stewart.

"But," proceeded Mr. Stewart, "this amendment will be germane as an amendment to the tariff bill and when that comes up I will have something to say."

Mr. Chandler asked sarcastically why this dress parade was not abandoned, and other important business taken up. "The senator (Chandler) knows well," said Mr. Stewart, "that there is no purpose of making this measure a law. It is all sham."

"But," interposed Mr. Chandler, "the senator should not assume to state what I know."

"I beg the senator's pardon," responded Mr. Stewart, "for assuming that the senator knows anything on any subject."

Mr. Stewart proceeded to charge that the Republican senators had the same views as Mr. Cleveland. They were both for bonds. This bond bill, he said, was intended to deceive. Its only purpose was to endorse the President's emergency tariff bill as a "buncombe measure" which was not intended to pass. After further desultory talk, Mr. Chandler withdrew his motion of a five minute debate, with the distinct understanding, he said, that on Saturday an earnest effort would be made to secure a vote on the bill.

There was a momentary lull, and the presiding officer, Mr. Frye, put the question of going into executive session and it prevailed. Soon thereafter, at 5:30, the senate took a recess until 12 to-morrow.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Two Election Contests Reported in Favor of Democratic Members—Other Business.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—The attendance in the house was slim to-day. Mr. Wadsworth, (Rep., N. Y.), from the committee on agriculture, reported the agricultural appropriation bill. The report of the elections committee in favor of the sitting member, D. B. Culberson, from the Fourth Texas district, and against P. H. Davis, was reported without division. The unanimous report on the case of J. H. Rosenthal vs. Miles Crowley, from the Tenth Texas district in favor of Crowley, was placed on the calendar, and it was agreed that Rosenthal, the contestant, should have an hour to-morrow to put his case, when it will be acted upon.

On motion of Mr. Doolittle (Rep., Wash.) a resolution was adopted requesting the President at his earliest convenience to transmit to Congress the report of the board of engineers on the Nicaragua canal. The bill to amend the dependent pension act of 1890, so that in considering widows' claims seven years of unexplained absence should be deemed sufficient proof of the death of the soldier, was passed. Mr. McClellan (Dem., N. Y.) made the point of no quorum, but the speaker counted one.

A bill was passed on motion of Mr. Quigg (Rep., N. Y.) to incorporate the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and on motion of Mr. Mercer (Rep., Neb.) to grant to the city of Omaha the use of the Fort Omaha military reservation which is to be abandoned next spring. The speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Wellington, (Rep., Md.) on the committee on labor and Mr. Belknap (Rep., Ill.) on railways and canals.

On motion of the committee on ways and means, a bill was passed for the reorganization of the customs collection district of Alaska, by which the secretary of the treasury should have discretionary power to designate such places as sub-posts of entry as the interests of revenue and commerce might require.

On motion of Mr. Shafroth (Rep., Colo.) a bill was passed to open forest reservations in the state of Colorado for the location of mining claims; also on motion of Mr. Bishop (Rep., Mich.) to confirm certain cash entries of offered lands.

The house then, at 2 o'clock, adjourned.

Army and Navy Union.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—J. B. Morton, national commander of the regular army and navy union, has issued a general order, as directed by the national corps at the last session held in Chicago, for the assembling of the annual convention of the union in Washington, D. C., on the third Monday of March, at 10 o'clock a. m. All gentlemen are enjoined to send delegates to represent them, in view of the fact that the proceedings are expected to be of the first order of importance and that two years will elapse before the next meeting. Special hotel rates have been arranged for the benefit of the delegates.

Urgent Deficiency Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—The urgent deficiency bill was to-day reported to the senate from the committee on appropriations, being the first of appropriation bills to be reported to

the senate this session. It increases the total appropriation for deficiencies over the amount appropriated by the house bill to the extent of \$1,050,000, the total being \$5,950,000. The principal items of increase are \$480,000 to complete the new congressional library building; \$441,104, to pay judgments (principally letter carrier claims) of the count of claims; \$299,739 to pay expenses of United States courts; and \$75,000 for back pensions and bounties. The bill is also amended so as to provide for the payment to Hon. M. W. Ransom, minister to Mexico, of \$2,000, being the amount of salary due for July and August, 1895, for which he received no pay owing to the irregularity of his appointment.

A DESERVED HONOR.

The Bill to Promote Lieutenant Commander Brown will Surely Pass, Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—The senate bill authorizing the President to nominate Lieutenant Commander R. M. G. Brown, retired, of West Virginia, to be a commander of the navy on the retired list, was reported back to that body to-day without amendment. The bill recites the occurrence at Apia, Samoa, in which Brown, when a lieutenant, saved the lives of many sailors, averting impending disaster to the warship Trenton, quotes the correspondence in relation to the incident between the navy department and Rear Admiral Kimberly, and also gives entire the act passed by the West Virginia legislature at the time a sword was presented to Lieutenant Brown in recognition of his services. The bill will without doubt pass the house.

Representative Miller to-day introduced two bills, one to remove the charge of desertion from the record of Isaac Newell, an ex-union soldier, the other granting a pension to John W. Gillespy.

REPUDIATES RESPONSIBILITY.

Postmaster General W. L. Wilson on the "Sweet Shop" Scandal. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—The resolution of inquiry into the management of the mail bag repair shop of the post office department did not come up in the senate to-day. Another measure having precedence, Senator Faulkner has had a conference with Postmaster General Wilson, however, and reports that the latter personally knows nothing about the state of affairs detailed in the resolution. Mr. Wilson disclaims the responsibility for the details of the case, except in so far as it may attach to him as the head of the department upon the principal that the chief is held to account for the acts of his subordinates. Assistant Postmaster General Neilson has promised to furnish Senator Faulkner with a statement to-morrow in which he will undertake to dispose of the charges. It is the tacit understanding that the senator will champion the department in future controversies over the matter.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

Sends a Greeting of Peace to the English Brides.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—The National Board of Trade at its closing session to-day by a unanimous rising vote directed the president of the board to send the following sentiment to the Associated Chamber of Commerce, London, England:

"The National board of trade of the United States, assembled in annual meeting at Washington, sends a greeting to the Associated Chamber of Commerce of Great Britain, reciprocating all the friendly sentiments uttered by English commercial bodies, and expresses the earnest wish that commerce and religion, representing the great progressive and civilizing forces of the world, may honorably avert collision between the English speaking nations who, more than any other, represent the sentiment 'Peace on earth, good will to men.'"

The committee on railroad transportation made a report which was approved by the national board, deprecating all movements looking to the government ownership of the railway lines, and continuously supervision over the operation and management of these great agencies, in all matters affecting their relations with the public in the conduct of inter-state commerce.

CENSURE OF BAYARD.

A Hot Discussion of the Matter in the House Committee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30.—No decision in the matter of censuring Ambassador Bayard was attained to-day by the house committee on foreign affairs, but the discussion upon the question which absorbed the entire hour, was one of the most interesting which that committee had indulged in for a long time. The members were practically opposed along party lines, as these dispatches yesterday predicted.

In the chief's office are the tools found on the men last night, comprising sticks of dynamite, dynamite cartridges, five .38 calibre revolvers, fully loaded, and an assortment of jimnies, drills, and other safe breaking implements.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The Kentucky senatorial deadlock continues with practically no change in the status of the candidates.

The Ohio attorney general has refused to bring proceedings to oust the Lloyds insurance companies from the state.

A. S. Pennoyer, one of the oldest and best known theatrical men in the United States, died in Philadelphia yesterday.

It is predicted that Senator Faulkner will be re-elected chairman of the national Democratic congressional committee.

The Union Shoe Manufacturing Company, of Chillicothe, Ohio, has assigned assets \$40,000. "Liabilities will be much larger."

Marie Augusta Amberg, the opera singer, has sued her husband, Gustav Amberg, for divorce, alleging cruelty and infidelity.

The reply of the Turkish sultan to the queen's letter on the Armenian outrages has been dispatched to the Turkish ambassador at London.

The meeting of the great anthracite mining and carrying companies' representatives has resulted in a combine for a division of tonnage for the next year.

Spanish papers protest against any American recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban rebels. They say that they have fulfilled none of the requisites for recognition.

The anti-Platt Republicans held a meeting in New York last night. The committee of 40 reported that there had been a fraudulent enrollment in the city of 25,000 voters by Platt's men. Steps were taken to undo the wrong.

The Louisiana state Republican convention is still in session and very turbulent. A caucus may result in two local delegates and two McKinley delegates at-large. McKinley will have a large majority of the district delegates. The fight is very bitter.

A BIG SURPRISE.

Sudden Ending of the Great King-Mullens Land Suit.

JUDGE GOFF'S QUICK DECISION

That the West Virginia Law Providing that Land Not Entered on the Tax Books for Five Successive Years Shall be Forfeited to the State Does Not Conflict with the Federal Constitution Does the Business—Verdict for Defendants.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 30.—Attorneys for the defense in the big find suit of King vs. Mullens in the United States court, before Judge Goff, this morning, sprung an interesting question when they asked the court for a verdict claiming that the land in question has been forfeited to this court by being not entered upon the tax books, a statute provision being that land not entered for taxes for five successive years shall be forfeited to the state.

To counteract this move, the plaintiff's counsel argued that the statute is contrary to the fourteenth amendment to the United States constitution, which says that no man shall be deprived of his life, liberty or property without due process of law. The state law says that land not entered for taxation for five successive years should go by default without due process of law.

The point was hotly contested, as it was highly important to both sides. Judge Goff, upon a request for a binding instruction to the jury, heard arguments of counsel and decided in favor of the law. The state law says that land not entered for taxation for five successive years should go by default without due process of law.

The abrupt ending of this famous case was a great surprise to the counsel for the defendants as well as the plaintiff's attorneys. The title to one and one-half million acres was involved in this suit, which has been in litigation for years.

A Sad Suicide.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 30.—Mrs. J. W. Dawkins, who from loss of sleep while nursing a sick child, became mentally deranged Tuesday and upon being prevented from drowning herself by her husband, swallowed a large quantity of quinine, kerosene and camphor, died from the effects this morning.

THE BOSTON BURGARS.

The Important Capture Made Wednesday Night at the Hub.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 30.—The police commissioners and head police officials were busily engaged to-day in examining the five burglars, Henry alias "Ed" Kelley, George W. Townsend, John Arthur, George Fred Gray, alias George Perry, and Henry Lomay, who were captured last night. The most brilliant disclosure made was that contained in two sealed and stamped envelopes addressed by Kelley to J. B. Dunlap, hotel Langham, Chicago, which were opened with the consent of the United States postal and secret service officials.

Dunlap was one of the Northampton bank robbers, and was pardoned from Charlestown state prison a few years ago, after persistent efforts by his friends, among whom were Mrs. Scott, the wife of one of his pals, who had been in prison, and the late General Sherman. The latter's interest was based on the fact that Dunlap was a brave soldier during the war. It is thought by Chief Watts that Kelley, having worked throughout the west as a safe blower, made Dunlap's acquaintance in that way. Kelley's letter was written in reply to one from Dunlap to Kelley, saying he would go into certain transactions with the latter, the nature of which was only hinted at. The other letter incloses a map of Madison county, New York, with the town of Brookfield circled with a lead pencil.

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GREAT DISCOVERY

Of Prof. Wright in Photographing Through Substances—Successful Experiments.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—Prof. A. W. Wright, who occupies the chair of experimental physics at Yale University, and is in charge of the Sloan physical laboratory, has, according to the Evening Post's New Haven correspondent, made successful experiments recently in photographing objects behind opaque bodies by the agency of cathode rays, in which Prof. W. C. Roentgen, of Wurzburg, Germany, has been reported to have achieved remarkable results.

Prof. Wright made use in his experiments a tube in which the exhaustion is carried to so high a point that the tension of the gas left in the tube is measured by a few millionths of ordinary atmospheric pressure, the so-called Crookes tube, and connected to the poles of an induction coil in action. The discharge from the negative electrode of such a tube gives the cathode rays which, it must be emphasized, are almost non-luminous.

Prof. Wright's experiments were made with great variety of substances, and it was found that strong impressions were obtained upon a photographic plate even when it was enclosed in an opaque wrapping of black paper and covered with a pine board half an inch thick. It was evident at the outset that the order of transparency of different subjects for the light rays was very different from that which is found in the cathode rays. Thus pieces of glass were more opaque to these rays than some of the metals or than ebonite, which is perfectly opaque to luminous rays, but transmits the cathode rays with great freedom. Among the metals aluminum is especially distinguished and in one of the experiments of Prof. Wright an aluminum metal left its impress on the plate so clearly as to show both the design and lettering. In this latter case the layer between the metal and the sensitive plate was absolutely opaque ebonite, which is the substance used by photographers to darken completely the plate holder.

INDIANA GERRYMANDER

Declared Unconstitutional—A Chaotic State of Affairs.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 30.—The supreme court this afternoon declared invalid the legislative apportionment of 1895, passed by Republicans. The case came up from Sullivan county and involved the apportionment act also of 1893, passed by Democrats. This also goes down as unconstitutional. By a former decision the apportionments of 1891 and 1879 were found invalid. To-day's decision makes it necessary to go back to the act of 1895, which is the last apportionment act passed, and has not been successfully attacked. The decision suggests that a special session of the legislature might be called to remedy the situation which has become chaotic by to-day's decision. The legislature is Republican and Governor Matthews has said that he would not call it together. The act of 1895 now found to be in force was passed by a Democratic legislature. The Republicans will probably file a suit attacking it. The hold-over senators elected under the law of 1895 are not disturbed by the decision. There are three opinions, one of which is a quasi dissent.

QUESTION OF COLOR.

Bishop Arnett Refused Admission to Boston Hotel.

BOSTON, Jan. 30.—Considerable excitement was noticed in Christian Endeavor circles to-day as the result of the news that Bishop Arnett, of Ohio, who is here to attend the Christian Endeavor day rally, had been refused admittance to three of Boston's leading hotels on account of his color and vigorous demonstration of the management of the hotels in question was heard on every hand.

Bishop Arnett was besieged by callers and although he deplored the stir that has been made about the matter, those with whom he is associated did not hesitate to express to him their indignation at the humiliation to which he had been subjected.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

Of the King of Portugal—Heroes of His Aide-de-Camp.

LISBON, Jan. 30.—While King Charles was returning to the palace to-day after a drive in an open carriage, accompanied by an aide-de-camp, an anarchist workman threw a stone at his majesty. The missile, however, hit the aide-de-camp, who jumped from the carriage and seized and held the anarchist until the latter was removed by the police. The king was removed shouting cheers for social revolution.

National Democratic Convention.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 30.—Chairman Harrity, of the Democratic national committee held here to-day on the Pennsylvania limited for Chicago to be present at the meeting to-morrow night of the sub-committee which is to have charge of the arrangements for the Democratic national convention. Besides Mr. Harrity, the sub-committee consists of Messrs. Gorman, of Maryland; Cable, of Illinois; Wall, of Wisconsin; Sherley, of Kentucky; Prather, of Missouri, and Secretary Sheerin, of Indiana. It will select a hall for the convention and headquarters for the national committee, and possibly fill the post office of sergeant at arms. Many applications and recommendations have been received by Mr. Harrity, including numerous requests for newspaper seats.

Elkhorn Negroes Aroused.

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., Jan. 30.—Over 300 negroes met at Elkhorn last night and discussed the lynching of Alexander Jones. Resolutions were adopted and a committee appointed to confer with the county officials to-day for the purpose of prosecuting members of the mob. The negroes' meeting lasted over six hours and had it not been for the leaders, a mob would have been organized to avenge Jones' death. If the county officers refuse to prosecute the mob serious trouble, it is feared, cannot be averted. Negroes are going through the mines urging miners to attend a meeting to be held to-night.

She Will Fight It.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 30.—Mrs. Julia Boland Higginson, wife of Frederick Lee Higginson, who, a few months ago, startled Boston's 400 by eloping with J. W. Smith, a young Salem lawyer, will contest the libel for divorce recently filed by her husband. An appearance on the supreme court was entered to-day in behalf of Mrs. Higginson, by Francis C. Welch, of the law firm of Schier and Welch.

The Bar Iron Merchants.

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 30.—The Merchants' Bar Association met again to-day and will be in session the remainder of the week. The object is to find a means of carrying out the McKinley agreement entered into last year, various members having surreptitiously cut the rates.

TO JOIN MACEO.

Gen. Gomez Marching to Relieve the Rebel Leader.

SPANISH AUTHORITIES BUSY

Circulating Stories to Discourage Insurgent Sympathizers, but the Reports Have No Confirmation—The General Cuban Situation—Congressman Maceo Receives Important Information—No Hope of Crushing the Revolution—Cuba Completely Devastated and a Famine Predicted as a Result—An Approaching Crisis.

HAVANA, Jan. 30.—Gen. Marin, the captain-general pro-tem, with headquarters staff, has left for the field in order to take charge of the operations against the insurgents. Gen. Suarez Valdez has been appointed acting captain-general in the absence of General Marin.

The sound of what appeared to be a serious engagement was heard yesterday between Seboruel and Lacleba. It is believed that the fighting took place at the Saladrigas farm between the two places mentioned. Much artillery firing was distinguished and it is supposed that the columns of the Spanish troops commanded by Colonels Cangilas and Galbis have been engaged with the insurgents under Gen. Maximo Gomez, who are understood to be making for the province of Pinar del Rio in order to reinforce the insurgents under Gen. Antonio Maceo.

A dispatch from Placetas in the province of Santa Clara says that the plantations of Adela, San Augustine, Alta Maria, San Pablo, San Felipe and Zana have been burned. The loss is estimated at \$500,000.

Reports in circulation here are to the effect that Antonio Maceo is in sore straits, his following being scarce of both ammunition and provisions and being obliged to slaughter their own horses to eat. These reports are not to be traced to any very authoritative source and are in part based upon surmise.

There is no doubt that Gomez is making strenuous efforts to open a way through the military line along the railroad from Havana to Batabano and it is said that Maceo has sent several emissaries to Gomez, appealing urgently to him for succor. In response to this appeal, Gomez has succeeded in passing the military line, but the authorities claim that he has not been able to keep any line of retreat open for himself.

Be that as it may, he is making progress westward, either with the purpose of joining Maceo or of creating a diversion in the north and drawing off the forces in pursuit of Maceo, while that leader works his way eastward in the south. The latter is regarded as the more probable course by observers here as Gomez has been reported as passing Banes and as having proceeded towards Cabañas along the northern coast.

The Spanish authorities are claiming that if Gomez has really set out for a counterattack back towards Havana province his position will soon be badly compromised. But these claims have been made before and the fact remains that Gomez is apparently in a way to success in his immediate purpose of forming a junction with Maceo or of affording him relief.

Maceo is reported to be still in the Sierra de Los Organos.

The insurgents continue the work of ravaging the province of Santa Clara and the destruction there is widespread. A band of a thousand burned and isolated huts and destroyed the crops in the cultivated zone of the district of Los Egleos. Numberless families are homeless and are seeking homes in charity and seeking alms. Fort Martinez was also attacked and the garrison made a truly heroic defense until to-night when the insurgents retreated, with considerable loss.